

## Appendix III

### Public Mail Survey

#### *Public Letter #1*

mailed on July 20, 2004

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**Northwest Management, Inc.**  
*Natural Resources Management*

233 E. Palouse River Drive  
PO Box 9748  
Moscow, ID 83843  
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*Providing a Balanced Approach to Natural Resource Management*

### **Minidoka County All Hazards Mitigation Plan Survey**

July 20, 2004

*(Minidoka County Resident)*

Dear Minidoka County Landowner:

Thank you for taking some of your time to read and respond to this short inquiry. We are working with the Minidoka County Commissioner's Office, and a host of fire protection and disaster relief organizations in Minidoka County to develop a **Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan** in your area. Wildland Fire mitigation is the process of identifying factors that contribute to wildland fire risk and then taking the necessary action to lessen the risk. As an individual who lives in Minidoka County, you know that the urban-rural interface is at very high risk to casualty loss due to wildland fires.

Because of catastrophic wildland fires occurring across the west in the past several years, state, federal and local agencies have combined efforts in an attempt to reduce the hazards associated with wildland fire. We are doing more than watching wildfire disasters happen around us, we are taking a proactive role in reducing the exposure to wildland fire in our area. We are inviting you to help yourself and your neighbors by taking a proactive role as well by completing and returning the attached survey.

We are developing improved predictive models of where fires are likely to ignite, locating and identifying high risk landscape characteristics, advancing improved land management practices to reduce fire risk on rangelands and forest lands, and working with rural landowners to create defensible zones around homes and buildings so that fires are controlled BEFORE they take a landowner's valuable possessions. It is the last of these goals that we need your help with.

We would like you to complete the attached survey about your home's defensible space in the case of wildland fire. **Your responses will be kept completely confidential and**

**released only in aggregated form.** This questionnaire will allow us to identify key criteria that may place your home and the homes of your neighbors at the greatest risk. We will use this information to develop mitigation activities that may lead to saving your home and the community you live in.

We have sent this letter and survey to only a select number of people in Minidoka County. Because of this, your response is very important to our efforts and the application of our findings to your home and to your community. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey and return it to us in the self-addressed envelope.

We would like to thank you for your assistance on this project with a small token of appreciation. During the development of this project, we are completing some very advanced mapping of Minidoka County. We have created detailed maps showing roads, rivers, elevations, risk prone landscapes, plant cover characteristics, and even orthophoto coverage (black and white images taken from high elevation). These maps are printed at 8.5" x 11" sizes. If you give us a legal land description, we will make a high resolution map of this property and send it to you. The map might be the locale of your home, your property, or even your favorite recreation spot. When you complete your survey, please mark which map coverage you would like and we will custom color print this map for you and send it at no charge. It is our way of thanking you for your input to this very important project.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions about this project or this survey, please contact your County Commissioner or John McGee, the Minidoka County local coordinator, at 208-459-8404, or me at the Northwest Management, Inc. office in Moscow, Idaho at 208-883-4488.

Sincerely,



William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.  
Project Manager, Minidoka County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan  
Northwest Management, Inc.

## Minidoka County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan Public Survey

1. Do you have a home in Minidoka County?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
2. Is this your primary residence?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
3. Which community do you live closest to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Does your area have 911 emergency telephone service?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
5. Is your home protected by a rural fire department?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
6. What type of roof does your home have (please mark one):
  - ☐ Composite
  - ☐ Wooden shake (shingles)
  - ☐ Ceramic tiles
  - ☐ Aluminum, tin, or other metal
  - ☐ Other (please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_)
7. How much of the area within 250 feet of your home is brush?
  - ☐ None
  - ☐ less than 10%
  - ☐ Between 10 and 25%
  - ☐ More than 25%
8. How much of the area within 75 feet of your home is brush?
  - ☐ None
  - ☐ less than 10%
  - ☐ Between 10 and 25%
  - ☐ More than 25%
9. Do you have a lawn surrounding your home?
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ Yes, if yes is it kept green and trimmed all summer?
    - ☐ No
    - ☐ Yes
10. How long is your driveway, from the main road to your home parking area? Please indicate distance units in feet or miles.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Feet
  - ☐ Miles

11. If your driveway is over 500 feet long, does it have turnouts that would allow two fire engines to pass each other?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Do you have a bridge on the road that accesses your home?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, if yes will it support large heavy fire engines?
  - ☐ Don't Know
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ Yes

If your driveway is in excess of 150 feet long, does it have turn around adequate for a fire engine at least 30 feet long?

- ☐ Driveway is less than 30 feet long
- ☐ Driveway is greater than 150 feet and has a turn around for a fire engine
- ☐ Driveway is greater than 150 feet and does NOT have a turn around for a fire engine

12. If the primary access to your home were cut off because of a wildfire, would you have an alternative route to escape through?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

13. Please indicate which of the following items you have available at or near your home that could be used in fighting a wildland fire that threatens your home (mark all that apply)

- ☐ Hand tools (shovel, pulaski, etc.)
- ☐ Portable water tank
- ☐ Stationery water tank
- ☐ Pond, lake, or stream water supply close
- ☐ Water pump and fire hose
- ☐ Equipment suitable for creating fire breaks (bulldozer, cat, skidder, etc.)

14. Has anyone in your household been trained in basic wildland fire fighting?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

15. Has anyone in your household been trained in basic structural fire fighting?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

16. Do you conduct a periodic fuels reduction program near your home site such as grass or brush burning?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

17. Do livestock (cattle, horses, sheep) graze the grasses and forbs around your home?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

18. Please use this exercise below to assess your home's wildfire risk rating:  
 Circle the rating in Categories 1,2, & 3 that best describes your home and all the ratings that apply for Category 4. .

<b>Fuel Hazard Rating Worksheet</b>			<b>Rating</b>
<b>Fuel Hazard</b>	Small, light fuels (grasses, forbs, weeds, shrubs)		1
	Medium size fuels (brush, large shrubs, small trees)		2
	Heavy, large fuels (woodlands, timber, heavy brush)		3
			<b>Category 1</b>
<b>Slope Hazard</b>	Mild slopes (0-5%)		1
	Moderate slope (6-20%)		2
	Steep Slopes (21-40%)		3
	Extreme slopes (41% and greater)		4
			<b>Category 2</b>
<b>Structure Hazard</b>	Noncombustible roof and noncombustible siding materials		1
	Noncombustible roof and combustible siding material		3
	Combustible roof and noncombustible siding material		7
	Combustible roof and combustible siding materials		10
			<b>Category 3</b>
<b>Additional Factors</b>	Rough topography that contains several steep canyons or ridges		+2
	Areas having history of higher than average fire occurrence		+3
	Areas exposed to severe fire weather and strong winds		+4
	Areas with existing fuel modifications or usable fire breaks		-3
	Areas with local facilities (water systems, rural fire districts, dozers)		-3
			<b>Category 4</b>

### Calculating your risk:

Fuel hazard (Category 1) \_\_\_\_\_ x Slope Hazard (Category 2) \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Structural Hazard (Category 3) + \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional factors (Category 4) (+ or -) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Hazard Points = \_\_\_\_\_

### Key:

Extreme Risk = 26 + points  
 High Risk = 16–25 points  
 Moderate Risk = 6–15 points  
 Low Risk = 6 or less points

19. If offered in your area, would members of your household attend a free, or low cost, one-day training seminar designed to teach homeowners in the rural–urban interface how to improve the defensible space surrounding your home and adjacent outbuildings?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

20. Would you be interested in participating in a cost share program that would pay a portion of the costs of implementing fire risk projects on your property?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

21. How do you feel All Hazard Mitigation projects should be **funded** in the areas surrounding homes, communities, and infrastructure such as power lines and major roads?

	Mark the box that best applies to your preference		
	100% Public Funding	Cost-Share (Public & Private)	Privately Funded (Owner or Company)
Home Defensibility Projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Defensibility Projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infrastructure Projects Roads, Bridges, Power Lines, Etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thank you very much for completing this survey and sending it back to us. This information will be combined with other data to assess the greatest threats to defending homes and adjacent buildings where hazards are common.

Please place the completed survey and the Map Request Form in the self-addressed envelope and place it in the mail for return to us. Thank you!

Your name and address are printed here so that we can remove your name from our mailing list once we have your returned survey.

## Order Your Minidoka County Area Map **FREE**

As a token of appreciation for completing and returning this survey, we would like to send you a detailed map of your favorite area. Complete this form and return it to us with your survey and we will custom print a color map of your property and send it to you. Maps are at a scale of approximately 1:12,000, showing 1 square mile at the center.

What is the legal land description of the property you want mapped (must be in Minidoka County):

\_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ N, R \_\_\_\_\_ E or W.  
or describe the area \_\_\_\_\_

About how many acres is the parcel you want mapped? \_\_\_\_\_ acres

What would you like printed as the title of the map? (Five or less words, please print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Please select which coverage (only one per map) you would like as the primary theme:

- ☐ Land Ownership Categories
- ☐ Imagery: Orthophoto or satellite imagery (not in color)

Maps may include:

- Roads
- Streams & rivers
- Community locations
- Building locations

**Please verify your name and full address here so we can send your map to you:**

Our records indicate that your address is:      If this is incorrect please correct it here:

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## **Public Letter #2**

sent as a postcard on July 30, 2004

July 30, 2004

Dear Minidoka County Resident:

About two weeks ago, I mailed you a letter and a brief survey concerning the wildfire situation in your community. That survey is instrumental to the success of the Fire Mitigation Plan we are developing in conjunction with the Minidoka County Commissioners Office. We have received responses from many families in the area and we wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who has participated. However, we still have not received completed surveys from many homes in the region. If you have not returned the completed survey to us yet, please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it in the self-addressed envelope provided with the survey.

Your responses are very important to this effort which will recommend the location and type of fire mitigation projects to be implemented in the area of your home. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact your County Commissioner or me at the Northwest Management, Inc., office in Moscow, Idaho, at 208-883-4488. If you did not receive my original letter, or if you misplaced your survey, you can request a new one at the number below or write me requesting another survey.

Thank you for your time and your assistance with this project!



William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.

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**Northwest Management, Inc.**      Natural Resource Management  
233 Palouse River Dr., P.O. Box 9748, Moscow ID 83843  
Tel: 208-883-4488, Fax 208-883-1098, <http://www.Consulting-Foresters.com/>



## Public letter #3

Sent on August 10, 2004, and included a replacement survey (not included here).



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## Minidoka County All Hazards Mitigation Plan Survey

August 10, 2004

*(Minidoka County Resident)*

Dear Minidoka County Landowner:

Thank you for taking some of your time to read and respond to this short inquiry. About two weeks ago, I sent you a letter and package of materials much like this one. In it, I asked if you would please assist our efforts by reading, filling out, and returning a short survey concerning a **wildland fire mitigation** plan we are preparing for Minidoka County in cooperation with the Minidoka County Commissioner's Office and a host of fire protection and disaster relief organizations in Minidoka County. Wildland Fire mitigation is the process of identifying factors that contribute to wildland fire risk and then taking the necessary action to lessen the risk. As an individual who lives in Minidoka County, you know that the urban-rural interface is at very high risk to casualty loss due to wildland fires. While we have received excellent responses from many residents of the area, we have not received it from everyone. **If you have completed and returned your survey, please accept our sincere thanks!** If you have not returned the completed survey, please do so as soon as possible.

Because of catastrophic wildland fires occurring across the west in the past several years, state, federal and local agencies have combined efforts in an attempt to reduce the hazards associated with wildland fire. We are doing more than watching wildfire disasters happen around us, we are taking a proactive role in reducing the exposure to wildland fire in our area. We are inviting you to help yourself and your neighbors by taking a proactive role as well by completing and returning the attached survey.

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Sincerely,



William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.  
Project Manager, Minidoka County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan  
Northwest Management, Inc.